

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065767

FOR AMB WITMAN

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ASMARA MOGADISCIO NAIROBI ROME  
MOSCOW USCINCEUR SECDEF FROM ADDIS ABABA 09 APR 73 REPEATED  
TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4148

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, PBOR, MAPS

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN/ SOMALI BORDER INCIDENTS

REF: ADDIS 4059 AND 4068 ( NOTAL), MOGADISCIO 467

1. ADDIS OUTWARDLY CALM. WE HEAR INFORMALLY FROM WELL PLACED  
MOFA SOURCE THAT " SOMALI INTRUDERS MAY HAVE WITHDRAWN." WE  
HAVE BEEN PROMISED EARLY UPDATE ON BORDER SITUATION AND WILL  
REPORT FURTHER AS WARRANTED.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT SITUATION REPORTED REFTELS OUT-  
GROWTH TENSION ON BORDER DUE PRESENCE NEARBY OF POLICE OR  
MILITARY FORCES INVOLVED IN ACTIVE PATROLLING ON BOTH SIDES.  
WE UNDERSTAND FURTHER THAT INCURSIONS BY SUCH PATROLS NOT IN-  
FREQUENT AND ASSUME THIS BRIDGES SOME OF DISCREPANCIES IN  
TWO ADDIS REFTELS. TENSION LIKELY CONTINUE, GIVEN CURRENT

STATE OF ETHIO- SOMALI BILATERAL RELATIONS.

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3. ACCORDING DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, KENYAN CHARGE ALSO CALLED IN BY MOFA OVER WEEKEND AND INFORMED OF IEG CONCERNS.

4. EMBASSY RECEIVING NUMBER OF REPORTS THAT IEG OFFICER CORPS, PARTICULARLY UPPER MIDDLE LEVEL, "CHAMPING AT BIT" AND WOULD LIKE TO "TEACH SOMALIS LESSON". JUDGING BY THESE REPORTS FEELINGS APPEAR BE RUNNING QUITE HIGH IN THESE CIRCLES AT THIS TIME.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO PARA 1 THIS TEL, AFTER FOREGOING DRAFTED EMBASSY OFFICIALLY INFO) STATED LAST NIGHT THAT ROMANIAN GENERAL SERB WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUSTER OF INTERIOR MINISTER STANESCU THREE WEEKS AGO. CZECH SOURCE SAID THAT SERB HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN JOB AS YET BUT IS COMPLETELY FREE AND HAS BEEN SEEN AROUND BUCHAREST.

3. CZECH COUNSELLOR EXPRESSED OPINION THAT STANESCU WAS REMOVED FOR COMBINATION OF THREE REASONS: DECISION TO REVERSE THE SERB CASE, DEFECTION OF DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER NICOLAE STATE IN SWITZERLAND (THUS SHOWING FOR FIRST TIME THAT BLOC DIPLOMATS ARE AWARE OF STATE'S DEFECTION) AND INCIDENT IN WEST GERMANY (INVOLVING BUNGLED SECURITATE EFFORT FORCIBLY TO REPATRIATE A ROMANIAN CITIZEN). HUNGARIAN COUNSELLOR EXPRESSED IGNORANCE, INCIDENTALLY, OF STANESCU'S ALLEGED HUNGARIAN NATIONALITY AND, AFTER SHOW OF NERVOUSNESS, EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT IT COULD BE TRUE. AS FOR STANESCU, SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELLOR SAID HE HAS CONFIRMED THAT STANESCU IS NOW HEAD OF CC SECTION CHARGED WITH HOUSEKEEPING FUNCTIONS AND NOT SECTION CONCERNED WITH SECURITY MATTERS (REF A).

4. AS REPORTED IN A072, A POLISH DIPLOMAT TOOK LINE WITH AN EMBOFF SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT STANESCU HAD BEEN GUILTY OF PERSECUTING AN INNOCENT MAN IN SERB CASE AND IN UNJUSTLY

ACCUSING FORMER PARTY SECRETARY FOR MILITARY AND SECURITY AFFAIRS, VASILE PATILINET, OF NEGLIGENCE IN HANDLING SERB CASE. THE SOURCE CLAIMED THAT SERB HAD EVEN BEEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH BUT SENTENCE NOT EXECUTED; HOWEVER OTHERS NOT SO LUCKY-- A GROUP OF ARMY OFFICERS IN MOLDAVIA-- HAD PERISHED.

5. OF POSSIBLE CONNECTION WITH ABOVE, WE NOTE THAT FORMER PARTY SECRETARY PATILINET WAS AMONG HIGH-LEVEL PARTICIPANTS IN APRIL 2 STATE DINNER FOR SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI. ALTHOUGH PATILINET HAS APPEARED PREVIOUSLY SINCE BEING DEMOTED FROM PARTY SECRETARY TO MINISTER OF FORESTRY IN EARLY 1972, THIS HAD BEEN LIMITED SOLELY TO LARGE OCCASIONS WHERE ENTIRE PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPEARED. INFERENCE OF HIS APPEAR-  
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ANCE NOW IN SELECT GROUP IS THAT PATILINET IS FULLY RESTORED TO FAVOR.

6. ANOTHER POINT WORTH NOTING, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY WELL BE NO CONNECTION, IS THAT SENIOR PRESIDUM MEMBERS, EMIL BODNARAS AND AMURER, REMAIN ABSENT FROM ALL MAJOR EVENTS. BOTH HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ILL AND ABSENCE MAY THUS BE SOLELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THIS FACTOR, ESPECIALLY IN CASE OF MAURER ( YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HE CONSIDERED MAURER EFFECTIVELY OUT OF THE PICTURE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF CONTINUED BAD HEALTH). BODNARAS UNDERWENT TREATMENT RECENTLY IN YUGOSLAVIA FOR A HEART CONDITION BUT WAS THEN WELL ENOUGH TO ENGAGE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AND TO DO SOME TOURING IN YUGOSLAVIA BEFORE RETURNING TO ROMANIA ( BRITISH HAVE REPORT HE THEN ENTERED HOSPITAL HERE). HE HAS NOT BEEN PRESENT AT ANY OF NUMEROUS PUBLIC FUNCTIONS SINCE HIS RETURN WHERE HE WOULD NORMALLY HAVE APPEARED IF ABLE. WHILE THIS MAY SIMPLY MEAN THAT HIS HEALTH REMAINS DELICATE, ONE MUST ALSO NOTE TWO THINGS ABOUT BODNARAS: HE HAS LONG BEEN A LEADING FIGURE IN MILITARY AFFAIRS AND HE IS ALSO SYMBOL OF RCP'S OPENING TO CHINA.

7. COMMENT: WE REALIZE THAT IMPLICATIONS ABOVE INFORMATION MUST BE TREATED WITH SOME CAUTION SINCE IT COMES FROM SOVIET OR PRO-SOVIET SOURCES AND CLEARLY PRESENTS A PICTURE THAT SOVIETS WISH TO CONVEY. ON OTHER HAND WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT SERB HAS PROBABLY BEEN RELEASED AS STATED SINCE STATEMENTS TO THIS EFFECT WERE CATEGORICAL AND WE HAVE NOT FOUND SOVIET DISINFORMATION HERE TO TAKE THAT FORM. ON CONTRARY, WE HAVE FOUND SUCH CATEGORICAL STATEMENTS BY SOVIET SOURCES TO BE TRUE IN PAST. WE HAVE PRESENTED SOME ADDITIONAL " STRAWS IN WIND" ABOVE THAT EITHER FIT THIS PATTERN ( ALLEGATIONS IN PARA 4) OR WHICH, MORE SPECULATIVELY, COULD FIT THIS PATTERN ( PARA 5 AND 6). REPORTED PLANS FOR VISIT BY SOVIET DEFENSE MIN GRECHKO ( REF B) WOULD ALSO ACCORD WITH THIS PATTERN. NEVERTHELESS, WE WISH TO END ON CAUTIONARY NOTE THAT CASE ALONG INDICATED LINES IS FAR FROM ESTABLISHED, THAT IT IS BASED LARGELY ON SOVIET SOURCES, AND, FINALLY, THAT EVEN SOME SHIFT TOWARD ACCOMMODATING SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY BE INTENDED AS LARGELY TACTICAL STEP COMBINED WITH BELIEF THAT BASIC LINES OF INDEPENDENT ROMANIAN POSTURE WOULD BE RETAINED.

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